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THE TIMES

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Christmas prize
quiz on
the arts, page 9

Mrs Thatcher not ready to compromise on EEC fund

Prime Minister is giving European leaders more chance to find some way to give the United Kingdom a broad balance between payments into and receipts from European Economic Community funds. Ministerial talks arranged in European capitals do not signify that Britain is used to compromise, Whitehall said.

Ministerial talks not sign of weakness

By Clark

1 Correspondent
of the
Irish Times

firstly denied in Whitehall, that the British government was retreating from stand on the European Economic Community for a change in the financial amounts to give the United Kingdom a broad balance between payments into and from the community

announcement that Mrs Thatcher had decided

Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Lord of the Exchequer, Ian Gilmore, Lord Privy

Minister, and a sign that the Government was pre-

pared to compromise.

MPs believe that the

Office has been responsi-

ble for the stories that Mrs

and the Government

for a compromise.

Right, however, it was

ear in Whitehall on

Mrs Thatcher that the

she was standing by its

demands; that Mrs

could have taken

other action in response

to the stories that she wanted

the other European

more chance.

Neil Callaghan, Leader

of the Opposition, has assured

that the Opposition

gave full backing to her

that the United King-

dom be relieved of the

£1,000 due to

the EEC fund next

He thought it sensible for

ministers to have preliminary

talks but they should not be

as a cover for a diplomatic

retreat.

Mr Thomas Forsey, Labour

MP for Bradford, South, who is

vice-chairman of the Labour

Party food and agriculture com-

mittee, yesterday wrote to the

Prime Minister, stating: "You

are wasting your time and the

time of your senior ministers in

sending them out with the

begging bow to our so-called

EEC partners, to plead on

behalf of the corporation's

increased demands for a broad

balance, but that

they are objective and they

firm assurances on the

it will be achieved.

Francesco Cossiga, the prime

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HOME NEWS

Tory backbenchers press Cabinet to end index-linked pensions for employees in public service

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Strong pressure is being put on the Cabinet by the Conservative backbenchers' finance committee for the ending of index-linked pensions for civil servants and other public service employees as part of a comprehensive reform of pensions and social security benefits.

In the new year the Cabinet will be studying a range of proposals that would reduce public spending by more than £1,000m a year when fully carried through. It is not expected that all the reforms could be made in one year, but Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the Chancellor, will probably make the first changes in next year's Budget.

Mr William Clark, MP for Croydon, South, chairman of the backbenchers' committee, said yesterday that at recent meetings there had been strong support for the taxing of short-term social security payments and an end to the protection through the index-linking of pensions given to civil servants and other public service administrators when they retire.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher gave a clear indication that the Government meant to take action on the taxing of unemployment and sickness and other social security benefits when she told the 1972 Committee of all Tory backbenchers on December 13 of the Cabinet's intention to tackle the "why work?" syndrome.

Conservative backbenchers believe that the scale of tax-free social security benefits, often giving a man with a family a higher income than a man on average earnings, causes many people to avoid work and

affects the attitude of those who are at work and paying taxes.

The Tories receive many complaints about "the two nations" being created by the public service pensions system. They have been told of public servants who, retired in 1972 on a £7,000-a-year pension, who are now getting £19,500 a year, and there are many other examples of pensions increases that could not be matched by private industry or counterfeited.

Mr Clark summarized the views of many Conservative MPs that it was manifestly unfair that the pensions of those who created the wealth of the country in commerce, industry and services to industry should suffer from the ravages of inflation whereas the administrators were insulated.

If the Government does decide to end the system, it will require legislation and there is no room for it in the present parliamentary session.

There would be a violent reaction from the civil servants and others in the public service,

who would point out that their level of salaries while working had always taken account of the enhanced pensions that they could expect.

Ministers have confirmed that all inflation-proofed Civil Service pensions are being studied, though old age pensions and pensions of widows and dependents will rise in line with price rises.

Another proposal being considered is to make employers responsible for paying an employee's reduction in the employee's payments into the National Insurance Fund.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams,

Drink-drive arrests stepped up

The Christmas campaign against drunken drivers was stepped up by the police as the weekend. Extra patrols, some in unmarked cars, were out to bring the campaign of the last few weeks to a new level.

In Surrey in the 24 hours from 2 am on Friday more than fifty drivers were given breath tests. A dozen were positive, police said.

On Merseyside 72 drivers were tested in an effort that began on Friday, and 36 people were arrested after their tests proved positive or they refused to take a test.

More than 200 arrests were made in the West Midlands in the 10 days up to the weekend. 425 drivers were given breath tests in Derbyshire in a week, with 42 proving positive.

Hampshire police were looking for drivers who committed lighting, speeding and drinking offences. More than 2,000 have been booked this month and almost half of them were breath tested.

Thames Valley police have advised party-goers to nominate one of the travellers in a car as driver with the responsibility of staying sober.

The Government is backing police with a £1,250,000 advertising campaign which includes graphic television commercials showing the possible consequences of drinking too much. In Northern Ireland, 200 motorists have been accused this month and will appear in court in the new year on drink-driving charges.

Northern Ireland has the worst accident rate in Western Europe. Last year 287 of its 1,500,000 population died on the roads. With eight traditionally bad days still to go before the end of the year, the figure has already been equalled.

Publicans in Belfast city centre reported having lean time. Many bars, normally busy with customers in the weeks leading to Christmas, have been nearly empty.

One-arm boy on short list for award

A schoolboy who has had only one arm since birth has been placed on the short list of finalists from all over the world who have been nominated for the international award for valour in sport.

Paul Trump, aged 15, of Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, scored two centuries for his cricket club, twice beating the highest score made by any club player, and took 33 wickets.

Premium Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Savings Bond prizes are: £100,000: 65W 068460 (Location of prize-winner, Devon); £50,000: 25RN 553592 (Bolton); £25,000: 22N 984778 (Avon).

Hospitals may lose emergency cover

By Our Labour Staff

The dispute over new work schedules is threatening meals at the hospital. Volunteer workers from the WRVS and Good Samaritans served the 730 patients at the weekend.

Hospital administrators say that the 16,000 technicians provide, on a voluntary basis, cover for duties such as blood analysis, transfusions and pathology. They have been making action for the past two months in support of a claim for £10 a night for being on emergency call and £7.50 for being called out.

Mr Reginald Birch, national officer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said last night that if there were areas of the country where his members decide not to provide cover the management should accept the responsibility.

He said that management representatives walked out of the ranks after five hours, adding: "They accepted full responsibility for any risks to patients."

Overtime ban: Patients at the Royal Liverpool Teaching Hospital may go without their Christmas lunch because of an overtime ban by 150 catering staff (the Press Association reports).

UK seeks EEC aid over training of 'boat people'

By David Nicholson-Lord

The EEC is being asked to subsidize the cost of language training for Vietnamese refugees in Britain. The United Kingdom is one of three countries that have applied for a training grant for the "boat people" from the EEC's social fund.

The application is thought to be the first on behalf of the boat people since they began to arrive over four years ago. A point likely to be seized on by critics of the language programme available to the boat people in Britain is that the application is confined to teaching at reception centres. Refugees are spending up to three months at the centres learning sufficient "survival English" to prepare them for resettlement throughout the country.

Critics have pointed out that many of the Vietnamese still need follow-up language training after they have left the centres, yet in some cases they are being housed in areas where there are no teaching facilities.

Although the criteria for qualifying for aid from the social fund are tightly drawn, the boat people qualify under the "least favourable interpretation" of the rules by the Social Security Ministers in 1974 that laid down that non-Community "migrant" workers were entitled to aid for language training and "other integration measures".

A measure of the pressure on the social fund, which paid £5m to Britain in 1978, is that while generally twice as much money is requested as is available, the proportion is three to one in the case of migrant workers.

Mr Wolfgang Stabenow, director responsible for the fund, said, however, that the prospect for grant aid to the boat people was "very positive".

So far more than 5,000 boat people have arrived in Britain, with 8,000 of the 10,000 quota announced by the Government in July still to come from Hong Kong.

The other applications have come from Germany and France. After they have been scrutinized by the social fund's

Two unions settle recruiting wrangle

By David Felton

Labour Staff

A long-standing legal wrangle between two white collar unions and the TUC over recruitment of new members has been settled out of court.

The Engineers and Managers' Association (EMA) went to court late in 1977 to head off a threat by the TUC to end the association, after a TUC disputes committee had found against the EMA in a recruitment dispute with the Management, Administrative and Supervisory section (TASS) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering.

Coupled with that, he pro-

posed a change in the system of personal allowances and a tax allowance on rate payments, so that householders would obtain a benefit while other taxpayers would pay marginally more.

David Felton writes: Mr Campbell Christie, deputy general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, yesterday predicted a widespread union opposition if the proposed ending of index-linked pensions for civil servants became government policy.

"It is a most serious challenge that would make us back to the 1930s, when there was a cut in unemployment benefit at a time of massive unemployment," he said.

"They seem to be saying that the fault of unemployment lies with the unemployed and the fault of inflation lies with those who have inflation-proofed pensions. It is a simple theory to use when your economic policies are in ruins."

Abolition of index-linking for Civil Service pensions was unlikely to save money because the Government's Actuary has assessed their benefit better than the TUC has.

Another proposal being considered is to make employers responsible for paying an employee's reduction in the employee's payments into the National Insurance Fund.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams,

Male winner breaks female domination of 'Mastermind'

High IQ quiz that has almost become a cult

By Kenneth Gossling

A cartoon appearing in *Punch* shows a late-night reveller arriving home to be greeted by his wife with the words: "I've started, so I'll finish".

The joke will be appreciated more informally than it appears on television. During rehearsals Mr Magnusson smokes a pipe and Mary Craig, his co-host, the contestants have a few general knowledge questions thrown at them, and then, in the early evening, retell the relatives for a cherry before the show.

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'Perverse and absurd' water charges act may be repealed

Christopher Warman
Government
Water
Government is considering repealing the Water Equalization Act 1977, it claims that instead of creating more consistent old water bills, it is creating the difference in consumers in different parts of the country.

At the order which seeks to equalize charges for next year over half of the bills are nearer to the national average of £27.24 for undivided supply, but it takes something like 42 per cent away.

Consumers with above average bills will be required to pay even more, and many below average bills will be reduced.

A figure for unmeasured includes some industrial and mineral, as well as old consumers. The average bill is £21.35.

Marcus Fox, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Environment, gave the government's view when the order came up for consideration in the House of Commons.

5 charge to Asians' NHS treatment

Off Reporter
up of Asian doctors in Britain are to meet health representatives early next month to discuss ways of charging only patients who are not registered with him and who wanted a second opinion. He said he charged £2.

The community health council yesterday called on the Birmingham family practitioners committee to investigate the allegations.

It said the committee should write to all doctors advising them of the situation.

"We want to see publicly about the health service generally in the Asian community and about their rights to free services from GPs under the NHS," it added.

The West Midlands Regional Health Authority said that a meeting to discuss possible methods of investigation would take place next year between a representative group of Asian GPs and the area medical officer, Dr William Nicol, together with a representative of the Birmingham area health authority.

Food labelling rules 'rogue' for Britain

Clayton
Correspondent
EU rules on food labelling weaken consumer protection in Britain, according to a report to the Government. The Food Standards Committee said that some rules will reopen loopholes closed in Britain 15 years ago.

Rules were agreed in 1978 after years of aiming among member countries for incorporation into British law are to be reviewed.

The committee concluded that did not offer much in the way of labelling regulations been used in Britain. Skilled drafting is required to convert them into British law.

Committee found an EEC decision on food labelling particularly hard to implement.

Second Report on Food Labelling (Stationery Office, £3.75).

It sailing for disabled in special yacht

Off Reporter
Royal Yachting Association Foundation provide opportunities for disabled to sail fast in a designed small boat. The boat is to be named Challenger and is to be designed by Mr Roderick Downie of Cross and British Oxygen. The boat is 15-foot long, has a sail and a tiller in front of the cockpit. The helmsman does not move his body; it has been sailed by a who is paralysed waist. A self-bowing as the effort required the mainsheet. The rope made in wood handled by Mr Kenneths of Loughborough, as the result of a qualified RYA.

It has been sailed at high force 6 (30 mph) Mr Douglas Hurnell, of the Seamanship Foundation, who promote sailing for those who would not normally have them.

Mr Hurnell (who is able-bodied) said: "It is doing everything we hoped for. It is very fast and exciting but it is absolutely stable. Quite severely disabled people have proved that they can board it from wheelchairs and get out of it with very little assistance.

During trials it was found that the Challenger kept pace with two of the sportiest racing dinghies on the market, a Fireball with the crew on a trapeze, and a Laser single-hander.

Production in glass fibre begins this winter and disabled sailors will be able to buy the boat for the remarkably low price of £750 under various subsidy arrangements.

It is hoped that the able-bodied will be encouraged by the design of the disabled and able-bodied helmsmen can race their boats. The price to able-bodied people will probably be about £1,000, which still compares favourably with the cost of other high-performance dinghies.

Production of Challenger is the latest in a series of developments over the past five years designed to add small boat sailing to sports open to the disabled, particularly to paraplegics (people paralysed from the chest or waist) who are often adventurous young men and women who have suffered spinal injuries in outdoor activities such as mountaineering.

At a conference held recently at the Calvert Trust Adventure Centre for the Disabled, near Keswick, more than 40 delegations involved in sailing for the disabled from as far afield as Cornwall and central Scotland reported an increase in their activities.

One of the difficulties encountered in trying to give disabled people full access to the sport is that they are unable to move their weight about to "hold up" a conventional centreboard racing dinghy.

In wind strengths of above Force 3 (gentle breeze, to 10 mph) they are obliged either to reef down or take extra crew on board, and that has held back the disabled sailors from

Tuning in to a change of policy at Cardiff

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

Soon shortly before the recess, he said that discussions had been held between Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, and Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, who agreed that an Act that produced such terrible results could have a future.

"It can, and demonstrably does, produce perverse, absurd and capricious effects. It is a tiresome exercise for the industry to service and for my department to administer; and for all its Byzantine complexity and spurious computerized precision, it just does not work," Mr Fox said.

Before any legislation is introduced, it will be considered by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which has previously granted franchises to wholly professional media men backed by big money who pursue success on a mixture of pop and prattle.

Cardiff Broadcasting claims to be the first truly community radio because it guarantees listeners the opportunity of influencing the use of programmes to be broadcast.

The franchise was won after the biggest battle for any independent radio station in the exception of Capital Radio in London. The successful group, labelled left-wing by its detractors, beat off challenges from the highly fancied Radio Cardiff Group and from Siarad, chaired by Sir Gerald Evans.

Cardiff Broadcasting was born when a few people involved in the media, community work and the arts decided to try for the franchise and presented Lady Plowden, chairman of the IBA, and her board members with a package quite different from the usual application.

Its most startling departure

was a proposal that listeners

should have effective legal control of the station.

After a series of public meetings six of the company's directors were elected at a further public meeting to represent the community, and six more were elected by 30 investors.

Money was raised by offering half the shares at £1 each to financial investors, which include a large trade union, and the remaining issue at 3p each to members of a second company called the Cardiff Broadcasting Trust.

This trust is the body that will guarantee effective listener control of the station. Every two years community elections will be held for two directors, so that each director will serve for three years.

These community elections will be open to all individuals and bona fide organizations within the broadcasting area.

Cardiff Broadcasting Company's competitors were shaken when the franchise was granted to what is, in effect, a non-profit-distributing trust, but conceded that the IBA's choice was in line with the Annan proposals on the future of local radio.

Although its programme schedules have yet to be published, it is apparent that music will take second place when the station goes on the air. One programme will apparently allow the public to broadcast their own news.

The leader of one unsuccessful group said: "This is the twentieth such station, but the first experimental one. The other 19 have all been run by commercial consortia."

"Provision should be made to allow the continued sale of products such as home-made wine kits," they said. "We would not wish to see the availability of these reduced for the sake of protecting Continental wine producers."

They also criticized the EEC for "allowing some processed foods to be sold without lists of ingredients." It is our view that these exemptions are justified or necessary", they said.

The committee has been trying for two years to persuade ministers to end such exemptions in Britain.

Second Report on Food Labelling (Stationery Office, £3.75).

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20 hurt in river disco accident

Twenty people were taken to Greenwich District Hospital after the Swanage Queen, a floating Thames discoteque ran into the river bank early yesterday.

None of the injuries were serious.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, said in the Commons on Friday that barbiturate abuse was numerically a larger issue than heroin in the United Kingdom.

Mr Raison said: "We have succeeded in convincing doctors that they should prescribe other less dangerous drugs. Barbiturates will still be needed in special cases, for treating epilepsy, for example, but the amounts have been reduced to the point where they are controllable."

"Barbiturates are addictive and lethal. Young people have been killing themselves with them."

Mr Raison said: "Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, said in the Commons on Friday that barbiturate abuse was numerically a larger issue than heroin in the United Kingdom.

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WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Moscow accuses US of trying to be world gendarme

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Dec 23

The Russians, who constantly ridicule talk of any Soviet threat to the West, appear increasingly alarmed by what they see as an American threat in all parts of the world.

A Soviet military commentator today accused the Americans of "global hegemonism", a phrase usually reserved for the Chinese, and said Washington was now trying to play the role of the world's gendarme.

He said the Americans considered not only the Western hemisphere as their exclusive territory, but also described West Europe and the Middle East as "vitally important strategic zones".

Accusing the Americans of hegemonism is tantamount to equating their policies with those of the Chinese, which the Russians daily denounce with deep-seated loathing.

A commentary in the military newspaper *Red Star* said that before his election President Carter has promised to reduce arms sales and to prohibit military intervention in the internal affairs of other countries. But his years in office had proved this was "pure demagogery".

The newspaper said: "Bases on a new global policy of force, a readiness to undertake military intervention in various parts of the world has become ever more apparent. The United States' yearning to play again the role of the world's gendarme is now quite transparent".

Red Star attributed this new

policy of hegemonism to Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser, and said it epitomized the view of American ruling circles that the United States had the right to decide the fate of all mankind.

Two other Soviet papers today gave instances of what they saw as American interference in various parts of the world. *Pravda* said the Americans were working to overthrow the Government of Afghanistan, which is linked to Moscow by treaty of friendship.

"They dream of sowing poisonous seeds of mistrust in the relations between the Soviet and Afghan peoples, of isolating the young Afghan republic from its real friends and of creating conditions for open interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs", *Pravda* said.

The paper said the anti-Afghan subversive activities of the American and other espionage and sabotage services were a crude interference.

For its part, *Pravda* accused the Americans of trying to transform the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) into a military-political alliance to replace the defunct South-East Asia Treaty Organization (Seato).

"Hardly a month passes without the Mugabe home with automatic guns yesterday, wounding two of Mr Mugabe's nephews.

In a speech after his return from signing the Rhodesia ceasefire agreement in London, Mr Nkomo said Bishop Muzorewa's men had staged the attack to make it look as if Mr Nkomo's gunmen were involved, and thus split the Patriotic Front alliance. He called on Lord Scarman, the new British Governor, to stop further attacks by rounding up the auxiliary forces and putting them in special camps.

"Until that is done, incidents like yesterday's will continue to happen", he said.

A Zambian Government delegation and more than 2,000 of Mr Nkomo's followers gave him a rousing welcome. About 60,000 refugees and guerrillas of Mr Nkomo's Zanu-PF



With the crises of the Rhodesian talks behind him, Lord Carrington finds peace relaxing on his Buckinghamshire farm.

Photograph by Sally Southern

Mr Nkomo says Muzorewa gunmen staged shooting

Lusaka, Dec 23.—Mr Joshua Nkomo today accused Bishop Abel Muzorewa's men of attacking the former home in Salisbury of Mr Robert Mugabe, who with Mr Nkomo leads the Patriotic Front.

Three unidentified Africans shot at the Mugabe home with automatic guns yesterday, wounding two of Mr Mugabe's nephews.

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A Zambian Government delegation and more than 2,000 of Mr Nkomo's followers gave him a rousing welcome. About 60,000 refugees and guerrillas of Mr Nkomo's Zanu-PF

have used Zambia as a base during the Rhodesia bush war.

Speaking to his followers, Mr Nkomo paid tribute to "the heroic stand of our people" against imperialism and exploitation. He also thanked international organisations and countries, particularly the socialist states of East Europe and Zambia, which had helped the Patriotic Front.

Connecting the war in Rhodesia with liberation struggles in other parts of Southern Africa, Mr Nkomo declared: "We fought together against federation [of Rhodesia and Nyasaland] to fight to get Zambia, to get Zimbabwe, and we shall fight together to get South Africa".

He later told journalists that he would return to Salisbury in the very near future.

The world's first aircraft, a few days in the Zambian capital, issued instructions to his forces about the ceasefire.

Asked about the Patriotic Front's plans for the Rhodesia elections, Mr Nkomo said: "We have fought the war as

an alliance, we shall fight the elections as an alliance".

He promised equal treatment for all in Rhodesia, regardless of colour: "Our war was not against white people, it was against an evil system. We shall not discriminate against white people who chose to stay in the country".

Asked what would happen to Bishop Mugabe if he left the Patriotic Front, Mr Nkomo said the Bishop could choose whether to leave the country.

"It is up to the police to decide who has committed crime", he added, indicating the possibility of war crimes trials.

The Zanu leader also appealed to Britain to ensure that all South African troops left Rhodesia immediately. Reuter

Frederick Cleary writes from Salisbury: The first teams of the 1,300-strong Commonwealth force monitoring the ceasefire and the Rhodesian general election moved into action today.

It fired on the Commonwealth forces to protect themselves and their comrades. They could be outnumbered 60 to 1 by guerrillas.

From midnight on December 23 the small teams of lightly armed monitors will be at the Patriotic Front's rendezvous points and assembly areas. The monitors will have no trenches and the large white flag denoted for each collecting point will be floodlit at night.

They will wait in their fortified tents behind a desk for Bishop Mugabe to come in, with his guerrillas to count the men.

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'Fat One' answers prayers with £40m

From Harry Deebus

Madrid, Dec 23.—Spain's famed *El Gordo*, rounded out its 11th year, this weekend, raising £40m on the park lanes of a church, whose prior sold lottery tickets to raise money to repair a leaky roof.

The *El Gordo* is Spain's celebrated Christmas lottery, bigger than ever this centenary year, which showered £20m in ten of thousands of cash prizes over Spain last Saturday, with players ranging from pensioner's money back up to £10,000 to 1.

It was a sorry task draw a year, with results announced in the suns distributed. Grandsons, on the church of Our Lady of Pilar in the town of Granada, on the outskirts of Madrid, were the big beneficiaries.

Most of them are fact workers from the poorer parts of Spain. They had bought Christmas lottery shares in their pastor, Father Sampson for the equivalent of 65p each, on the understanding that peace went towards the roof for the repair of the church and the rest was given to the pastor.

Never before had *El Gordo* been so eager to pop out the huge wire cage in the atrium of the National Lotteries Administration in Madrid.

Hardly had the boys of Madrid's School begun drawing the numbered wooden balls from one wire cage, and setting balls with prize amounts painted on them from another cage, before *El Gordo* started.

President Sampson of Mozambique in announcing his country's ending of sanctions disclosed that hundreds of Mozambican soldiers have been fighting in Rhodesia with the guerrillas. Reuter and AP: Russian protest: The Soviet Union has protested to the United Nations over the lifting by Britain and the United States of trade sanctions against Rhodesia. The other "frontline states" supporting Patriotic Front guerrillas—Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and Angola—had taken spontaneous action, it said.

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"We're going to open nursery, of that you can be sure", the priest said. "really need it because it closed, the one we had", was referring to a hall owned by the town and used by parish as a day nursery in the town council recently claimed the building for offices.

One of the largest individual winners was a tailor, Grandmother, who bought a block of the parish-sponsoring lottery shares. He won nearly £275,000.

The capricious *El Gordo* seemed determined this year to be extravagant with its used to living on modest incomes.

Sororita, Sara Martinez, young shop assistant, quit job in Granada last summer when she won about £63,000 the regular weekly state lottery. *El Gordo* gave another prize, worth twice much as the previous one.

China's Catholic Church has been separated from the Vatican since the 1949 Communist revolution and is known as the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association. The new bishop was elected by a vote of the ecclesiastic members in Peking last summer.

Francesco Piancioli said: "the doctrine of the Church and canon discipline do not consider legitimise in any case, the nomination which comes about without the 'consensus' or approval of the Holy See. An action of this kind can only hurt the Pope very deeply."

The spokesman, the Rev

Ronald Piancioli, also said yesterday that the Vatican had received many telegrams and letters from Roman Catholic bishops and the faithful.

"Unjust" attitude: In Peking

Mgr Fu Tienan said the attitude of the Vatican towards an independent Chinese Church was "unjust" and called for autonomous churches for each world region.

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He hoped the Vatican would adopt a more realistic attitude towards his church's nationalist version of Catholicism.—UPI and Agence France Presse.

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£500,000 found buried after Cologne robbery

Cologne, Dec 23.—Police yesterday they had recovered the £500,000 (more than £500,000 buried in plastic sacks down side street. The Turkish diplomat collapsed on the pavement and died instantly.

Last July, the same commandos of avengers claimed responsibility for a bomb attack against the offices of three Turkish organisations in Paris, in which one person was injured.

Last month they directed their attacks against the premises of Turkish airlines.

Stabbed: A Turkish diplomat collapsed on the pavement and died instantly.

A police spokesman said F

Dieckhoff returned to give a statement, his wife in West Germany. He is understood to have said: "I wanted to escort my wife, middle class ex-wife," Reuter.

Watchmen back in Madrid

Madrid, Dec 23.—Madrid traditional nightwatchmen turned to the streets last night carrying a baton and pepper spray instead of the once customary set of keys.

The serenos, once a common sight in the Spanish capital were disbanded three years because the old buildings which at night could only be entered, using their huge keys had virtually disappeared.

Big swing from Mr Kennedy to Mr Carter

New York, Dec 23.—President Carter, who trailed Senator Edward Kennedy in opinion polls until recently, now has a lead of between 33 and 53 per cent among Democrats and independent voters, a *Time* magazine survey has shown.

Calling the switch: "One of the most dramatic turnabouts in modern American political history", *Time* said there has been a shift of 63 percentage points in the President's favour in only four months.

He pointed out, however, that President Kennedy had expressed concern about Moscow's traditional policies of seeking access to the Indian Ocean through various parts of south-west Asia.

Conceding that he had a "natural affinity" with the Pope, he said he had a "natural affinity" with the Pope.

Two-thirds of those polled said they thought Mr Carter's approach to the crisis was "just right". Three-quarters disapproved of Mr Kennedy's recent outspoken criticism of the deposed Shah.—Reuter.

Barre Government survives its tenth motion of censure

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 23

A government able to survive 10 motions of censure in one parliamentary session would seem to have a solid parliamentary majority.

The government of M. Raymond Barre, which yesterday sailed through the last two motions of the Opposition tabled with the same apparent ease as the previous eight, is in no danger of being overthrown.

But its majority is a negative, rather than a positive one. The Gaullists, once again, have refused to support the Bill reforming the social security system, just as they did for the 1980 budget. But they have stopped short once more of bringing the government down, and did not join their votes to those of the Socialists and Communists.

"The Government majority exists. It is not present today because it has decided not to vote censure," M. Barre de-

Shah's sister puts blame for deaths on Ayatollah

New York, Dec 23.—Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, twin sister of the deposed Shah of Iran, has accused Ayatollah Khomeini of being a peaceful and prosperous nation, internationally acclaimed as a model of success in the development of the old regime

OVERSEAS

Army fights crime in Chinese provinces

Peking, Dec 23.—Chinese authorities have called on the Army to impose law and order in nine provinces, and more executions, including that of the leader of an arms and drugs gang, have been carried out to try to control crime.

Local radio and other sources spoke today of "a very serious situation" in some towns, with "feudal armed fights between clans", while senior officials were warned not to cover up for the crimes of their children helping them to escape justice.

Provincial radio also said that a division of the Peking garrison is helping police to fight crime in the capital.

The nine provinces where the army has to intervene to help the police are Anhui, Henan, Shaanxi, Hebei, Fujian, Guangxi, Guangdong, Jilin and Xinjiang, ranging from the north-east to the extreme west, and from the south to the centre of the country.

In Shaanxi, especially at Yan'an, where the Communists settled after the long march of the 1930s—the railways were reported to be unsafe and armed bands had attacked police, while at Urumqi, in the west, troops were patrolling public places.

Guangdong, the frontier province bordering on Hong Kong, the deputy head of local administration criticised those who were behind gang warfare as well as "feudal superstition" in the country-side, gambling, and the destruction of forests and called for a halt to "the sinister wind of illegal emigration".

The local radio at Kunming in the south-west said today that four people, including the leader of a smuggling gang, had been shot on December 10 after a trial and a mass meeting to judge 23 common criminals.

The sentences were preceded by a strong reminder from General Yang Zhen, commander of the Kunming military region, to Army officers: "The extremely high ranking ones", that they were forbidden to protect their children involved in criminal matters.

The appeal, made at the mass meeting of 5,000 people, was similar to one made in Anhui to Communist Party officials, and suggested to observers that at least some of the offenders were from influential families.

Other incidents, including "unbridled criminal activities" in Shandong province, according to the Governor, and "rather a lot of crimes" in Guizhou, according to the local newspaper, indicated to observers a sudden change of order in the provinces.

The authorities said today, without giving details, that the Supreme Court had put into effect a series of "regulations" for revising the death penalty, which has been widely used recently. Kunming radio reported exhortations to dissidents who have "pursued capitalist liberty" to fall into line—Agence France-Presse and Reuter.

Further reduction

Delhi, Dec 23.—Indian civil servants who volunteer for sterilisation will pay half a per cent less interest on their home mortgages under a new government plan.

Alan Paton asks if pledges on apartheid were kept

Johannesburg, Dec 23.—Official promises of significant change in apartheid-ruled South Africa had turned out to be "extraordinary non-events." Alan Paton, the writer, said this weekend in an end-of-year message.

Mr Paton, who is best-known for his novel *Cry, The Beloved Country*, said South Africa was facing a "dangerous and difficult" decade in the 1980s, but Africans-speaking whites, who dominate politics, were awakening to change.

He said the Portuguese coup of 1974 that brought independence and black rule to Mozambique and Angola had transmitted two unmistakable messages to this country: "the age of Black South Africa" the message was that the age of freedom has begun. The message to white South Africa was that the age of domination was over."

Mr Paton suggested that the response of the ruling National Party had been inadequate. "Two extraordinary non-events" had followed—a promise to the world by Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister that racial discrimination would end, and a statement from Mr Vorster, the former Prime Minister, that the world was going to get a big surprise within six months.

"What became of these two?" Reuter.

Indian politicians expect repeat of 'booth capturing' by armed gangs and violence in Bihar poll

From Richard Wigg

Patna, Dec 23.—The two wings of the split Janata party are waging a "no holds barred" general election campaign in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, to retain something of the 1977 triumph when together they swept up all the 159 seats, more than a quarter of the Lok Sabha in the Lower House.

While the organization of the right-wing Hindu nationalist Jan Sangh is behind the rump Janata party, the local party of Mr Charan Singh the caretaker Prime Minister, looks highly vulnerable. The clear winner of the split vote, ought to be Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister.

The Janata "wave" in 1977 was accompanied by serious election violence, particularly in Bihar where it is notorious, though politely ignored by Delhi. With Janata split, electoral malpractices constitute a challenge which India's Election Commission is ill equipped to face.

The returning officers, all district magistrates, in 52 of Bihar's 54 parliamentary constituencies this weekend told the state Election Commission they fear "some sort of trouble" on polling day. Mr S. N. Mishra, the Minister of External Affairs, has even felt obliged to ask the commission for "special personal protection" in his Bihar constituency.

By contrast, in the Uttar Pradesh constituency of Mr Charan Singh, the Janata party has demanded special precautions from the Election Commission, alleging that Mr Charan Singh's farmers' caste which dominates the region, will simply not allow any Harijan (formerly untouchables) voters to get to the polls.

In 1977 there were 40 officially registered cases of election "booth captures", that is the physical taking over of polling stations by armed gangs who, after throwing out the presiding officers and offi-

cials and any genuine voters, proceed to stamp the ballot papers and vote for the candidate who hired them.

The Janata Government, which took power in the state in the local elections which followed, has not punished anyone involved in those 40 admitted cases. Indeed, it is estimated that about a quarter of the state Assembly members with themselves been charged with law-and-order offences before their election gave them immunity.

Such facts in the home state of Mr Jagjiwan Ram, the Janata leader, make his claim in his political broadcast last night from Delhi that Janata has "restored the democratic freedoms" after Mrs Gandhi's emergency, sound hollow.

The link between organized criminal gangs in Bihar and the politicians is at the root of Bihar's backwardness, the gangs are patronized by all parties.

Seeking refuge from time to time in neighbouring Nepal from their normal smuggling activities, which have grown since total prohibition was introduced in the state last year, the gang leaders emerge before polling day to "contract" for booth capturing for any politician who needs to "take out" say 25 booths.

For 10,000 rupees (just over £500) the gang leader will assemble an armed gang for polling day. Sometimes capturing is not necessary, a body of 200 impersonators, often including many women, will descend on a polling station and force the local officials, fear reprisals if they resist the ruling politi-

cal will. But this year, a public drama preceded the polling. The Janata Government, headed by a Harijan protégé of Mr Ram, has just dismissed the Chief Secretary, the top civil servant in the state, who happens to be a southerner, after he refused to permit the transfer of a

returning officer to the constituency of the state Janata Party leader, who is also leader of the Rapti, one of the dominant Hindu upper castes.

India's Chief Election Commissioner had issued a general order to prevent the drafting of "sensitive" officials into "sensitive" constituencies (where malpractices are feared) in the election run-up. But Bihar's Cabinet dashed this, approving the removal of the Chief Secretary.

The Delhi Commissioner's only reply was to order the state Government to make adequate police arrangements to prevent booth capturing next month.

The Election Commission has no power to suspend in future contests a parliamentary candidate if it judges guilty of election malpractices and it depends on state governments to implement its orders.

Some 2,600 special booths among the total of 55,000 in the state have been set up in areas where Harijans predominate. It is an essential aspect of Bihar's backwardness that it is practised against the weaker castes.

Mr Ram, the first Harijan to come within striking distance of the premiership, is contesting the Sasaram constituency, south of here, reserved for Harijan candidates which has returned him to Delhi every time since India's first general election in 1952.

Though Mr Ram, introduced in Parliament the motion approving Mrs Gandhi's 1975 emergency, did not leave her Government until a few weeks before its defeat in the 1977 poll, Janata have chosen him as their standard bearer.

It is an alliance of the higher castes in the north Indian "cow belt"—Brahmins, Rajputs and Bhumihars—and the Harijans at the bottom of the Hindu social scale against the middle castes, the so-called "backward classes".

Former Amin soldiers freed from Ugandan prison

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Dec 23

The Ugandan Government released a thousand detainees—most of them members of the Ugandan Army under former President Idi Amin—from Luzira Prison near Kampala this weekend. They had been held without charge since the Amin overthrow in April.

There are still about 3,000 prisoners held without charge, mainly former members of the Amin intelligence and security services. The releases at the weekend have reduced crowding in Luzira Prison, which was designed to hold 1,800 prisoners, and is still too full.

The Ugandan Government appears to have accepted that it cannot bring charges against the former soldiers, but they have been warned not to create trouble, and not to try to join former Amin troops now in the Sudan and Zaire.

Uganda's National Consultative Council, the country's interim parliament, has accepted most of the Cabinet changes made last month by President Godfrey Binaisa, but has vetoed

E Germans take goods from Polish shoppers

From Gretel Spitzer
Berlin, Dec 23

East Germany took drastic steps to stop Poles from shopping in their country. The newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* reported today that in early December a train to Poland was halted in East Germany, surrounded by police with dogs and searched. Most of the goods which Polish travellers had bought in East Berlin were confiscated without any refund.

The newspaper related another incident a few days later when the passengers of a Polish bus met with similar treatment.

After the liberalization of traffic between Poland and East Germany the shopping spree of Poles led to tension. Both governments took steps to prevent expensive purchases.

On arrival in East Germany the Poles are given a list of goods they should not buy. These include shoes, stockings, socks, children's underwear and clothes, sheets, towels, underwear, wallpaper, precious metals and stones, sugar and onions.

S African held in atom secrets case

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Dec 23

A young academic is expected to be charged soon with betraying South Africa's nuclear secrets to the banned African National Congress (ANC).

He wants to take Mrs Margaret Thatcher at her word. She said in New York last week that the Rhodesian settlement, compared with the changes in South Africa's domestic policies, offered a chance to make progress towards ending the isolation of South Africa.

Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, has described Mrs Thatcher's remarks as encouraging and is believed to have brought up the subject of a meeting between the two leaders during recent talks in London with Lord Carrington.

He will be alleged that he gave reports to the ANC listing details of South Africa's first nuclear power station, which is being built with French help near Cape Town, as well as other nuclear developments, possibly including South Africa's secret uranium enrichment process.

He will probably be charged under the Atomic Energy Act and could be fined 10,000 rands (£5,000), or sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment or both.

South Africa has always maintained that its nuclear research is solely for peaceful purposes. Last year, the United States said that a satellite had detected what appeared to be a nuclear testing site in the KwaZulu-Natal region.

South Africa is the only country that racial discrimination would end, and a statement from Mr Vorster, the former Prime Minister, that the world was going to get a big surprise within six months.

"What became of these two?" Reuter.

Kampuchea aid workers await border flare-up

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, Dec 23

Aid volunteers working among Kampuchean refugees along the Thai border are digging bunkers for their own protection in case that the predictions of possible Vietnamese military raids across the frontier materialize. Thailand's armed forces in the region have been placed on full alert for the first time since mid-October.

A plan for the volunteers' evacuation in an emergency is also ready. Some 140,000 Kampuchean refugees near the border would not be part of the evacuation.

Thai military spokesman say intelligence reports indicate the possibility of large-scale Vietnamese attacks on or close to

A leading article in the Communist Party newspaper *Nhan Dan* described Thai leaders as "liars". It accused Thailand of "colluding with Peking" to arm Pol Pot forces, giving Khmer Rouge forces sanctuary on Thai soil and of invading Kampuchea with Thai troops.

Mr Le Duan, the party secretary, said: "Vietnam does not invade any country, but Vietnam is resolved to retaliate against any aggression." He said Vietnam would continue to "secure" Kampuchea and Laos.

Mr Pol Pot, Prime Minister of the Kampuchean Government deposed last January, may well have been replaced, at least as titular head of the Khmer Rouge regime, well-informed diplomats said in Bangkok today.

Reports of the change in which a technical rehearsal was going on in the stage, "Why are, I am here to pull the grown-ups?" he said. He told me a complicated joke about a boiled egg which space, dialect and various other considerations preclude me from repeating here, though it was extremely funny. I was fortunately able to understand him because I took a degree in Geordie at the university of life many years ago.

General Kriangsak Chamrany, and the Thai Prime Minister, said yesterday he had received a report about the supposed changes but there had been no confirmation.

Bangkok, Dec 23.—The official Khmer Rouge radio today denied rumours that Mr Pol Pot had been assassinated. It made no mention of the reports of a change of leadership—Agence France-Presse.

The diminutive former miner, who took to the boards at the age of 20 when his pit was closed, talks a lot about his past and on the stage. He is about £2,500 a week for his performances. He has been appearing in the club of his native region, and was presented with a golden disc only this month to mark the enormous sales of his first comic record. Considering that rather less than 10 per cent of the British population can even understand his carefully cultivated broad Geordie, this represents an astounding commercial feat.

Richard Goolden long since made a national monument of himself as Mr Mole in the golden jubilee production of *Toad of Toad Hall* at the Old Vic theatre in London. The second *Toad*, an actor who is about 70 and is doing a 13-minute solo comic turn in the middle of the pantomime *Cinderella*, a kitch new production at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle upon Tyne. I went to watch both shows in the final stages of rehearsal.

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Bernard Levin says this column is not about smoking

Introducing the Bisto Kid

I know what I want to find in my stocking tomorrow; nor do I begrudge the extra cost the present will involve me in, which is the price of a large handkerchief, the purpose of which will be to mop up the tears of nostalgia that the thing will provoke.

A firm called Foster-Cleare, in Harfield, has had the idea of buying a large collection of sets of cigarette-cards, framing them, and selling the result (each set split between two frames) as pictures to hang on the wall. The illustration in the advertisement looked charming, but to tell you the truth I don't really want them framed at all; the backs of the cards are, to me, quite as important as the fronts, and anyway, I want to handle them.

I suppose I had better pause here and explain to my younger readers what I am talking about, as they will certainly have no means of knowing if I don't. In the 1930s, cigarette manufacturers, to promote their brands, included in each packet of their product a card, measuring some 2½ inches by 1½. On the recto, there was a picture; on the verso, a text concerning the brand. There was also a number from one to 50; and therein lies the heart of the matter.

For the cards were not designed with random interest in mind; each set of 50 had a theme of its own, and the idea from the cigarette manufacturers' point of view was that the collector would want to complete the set and would therefore have to go on buying cigarettes until he had done so. And this might be quite a long time, because although (as far as I know) the number of copies of each card of a set was the same, there was nothing on the outside of the packet to indicate which card was inside. In practice, I suppose, most

I remember, for instance, a very swish set, probably by Kensitas, which consisted of real photographs of scenery in Britain; I wish I had kept that one...

of the collecting was done not by the smokers but by the smokers' children. The only smoker in my home was my grandfather (though he was a 50-a-day man, lived to be 84, and used his very last breath not to speak memorable words but to take a puff on a cigarette); his preferred brand was Kensitas, which I seem to remember went in for some what classier cards than the other manufacturers, including one spectacular set not of cards but of leaves of silk, and which were reproduced on the flag of the nation. But if one's smoking relations stuck to a single brand, the scope for card collecting in the family circle was limited, and there was only one solution. We used to hang about the doorways of tobaccoists, and accost emerging purchasers with a cry of "Got any cigarette-cards, mister?"

This, no doubt, conjures up for you a picture so startling that you find it difficult to believe. Reckless Jack Levin, the man of many scoops, you are familiar with; Levin the gourmet and bibber of fine gourmets you likewise know; Levin the wit and man-about-town, the glass of fashion and the mould of form, the observed of all observers, is no less byword among you. Levin the Bisto Kid, however, is another matter.

Well, *tempora mutantur*; my rough youth is behind me, and unlikely to return. Nor do I propose to elaborate; suffice it to say that I collected cigarette-cards in my youth, and gathered many where it was to be found.

The range of subjects covered by the cards was astonishing: the advertisement that set me off on this *recherche du temps perdu* listed 20 sets, half each from Wills and Players. Footballers, Film Stars and Motor Cars are obvious enough, though I cannot recall ever having been sufficiently interested to collect them. But if one's smoking relations stuck to a single brand, the scope for card collecting in the family circle was limited, and there was only one solution. We used to hang about the doorways of tobaccoists, and accost emerging purchasers with a cry of "Got any cigarette-cards, mister?"

Of the ones I remember, only Railway Equipment is included in the present offer; I think I could recite the details of many of the cards in it to this day, though how I ever became interested in it, I have no idea. I have, however, been sufficiently interested to collect it, and I think you must have been a total of many hundreds (remember that the manufacturers regularly and frequently phased out one set and introduced a new one), there are such less obviously appealing subjects as Household Hints, Air Raid Precautions (if my younger readers will come back next week, I will tell them what an Air Raid was, and what Precautions you took against it), Military Uniforms, Wild Flowers, Butterflies and Old Bicycles.

And also Railway Equipment. This is one of the sets I remember collecting myself, and what is more, completed; many a set, inevitably, was left unfinished, but for this one I bagged the lot (a brisk trade in one. (Indeed, I wish I had kept

them all—complete sets of the rarer ones change hands today at substantial prices.)

From time to time, one of the tobacco companies thinks of starting the issue of cards again (they disappeared with paper rationing at the beginning of the war), but the industry as a whole is against the idea, no doubt because of the cost involved, and since it would almost certainly have to be all manufacturers or none, it seems that we shall never see them again. The cost, incidentally, must have been considerable: in addition to the preparation and manufacture of the cards, there were, as I recall, albums to hold them, and I think you got one of these free, as any rate from some manufacturer, when you completed a set.

My memories of collecting cigarette-cards include some of the most notable misunderstandings of my youth. There was a series on sportsmen, for instance, which gave you a biography of the player illustrated, ending with a question to which the cards were, for the most part, not rubbish and were prepared with considerable care. The text on the back was correct and genuinely informative, and some of the fronts extremely attractive. I can remember, for instance, a set of golfers, one (probably by Kensitas) which consisted of real photographs of scenery in Britain; I wish I had kept that one. (Indeed, I wish I had kept

it.)

I suppose somebody has written, or is writing, an immense scholarly study of the cigarette-card. Somebody else, no doubt, is at work on an analysis of its role in social history. We may endearingly, no doubt. But if the audience who will be something missing from this book, something that could only be truly understood by those who had themselves collected cigarette-cards.

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ANGER, THEOLOGIANS AT WORK

led by commentaries and diluted by the mass media, it may be, but Christians are by no means eclipsed as a political force. It is one of the days in the year when the church is still up a bit. The Christmas y—or myth as one school of theologians prefers, intending no offence—speaks to the modern imagination as well as ever, and 3 years on still conveys to us. Even terrorists have been known to take tactical notice of season.

Christians focus the mind on incarnation; God made man went in history; one pole of the Christianity, the other on Easter Day. "And true, and it is true. This tremendous tale of all?" one given to reflect upon it hardly have failed to notice the meaning of the incarnation, is currently at the centre of theological controversy, as for his Christological ones as much as for his creation from papal infallibility that Professor Hans Küng, allen foul of Rome and his bishops, Fr Edward Schillebeeckx has been challenged on same subject. A couple of ago the Church of England tremor when a collection says entitled *The Myth of Incarnation* canvassed similar, more provocatively and vigorously.

fifth century

hodoxy concerning the Incarnation was fixed by the Council of Chalcedon in 451. It clear expression to a man: Jesus Christ is true God; one person in two, the divine and human, are united in him without division, without change, with division and without separation. That was meant to set the of legitimate speculation; or many centuries in the b's history it did. But not since, since Monophysites argued on until-beatenism. And now, since Christians of today, returning the task of reconcilingian doctrine and the contrary modes of thought of tested men, do not all feel d to observe *Keep Off* posted in the fifth

king back on the decade is about to end, one sees ecular culture in this part of the world anyway is gradually becoming less hostile to the us impuse (if not also to zed religion with roots)—hostile than at any time, since the beginning of the Enlightenment.

ivist science, once soive of faith, is much less illing now as a sufficient of social action or as a ent explanation of existence—which is not to say it is any less confidently ed as a means of material ment or a tool of power. ideologies of the loose like humanitarianism or the right variety like semi-Leninism are less ously encountered. But the weather is warmer the church door, the of disputation within is, than before; not the

bickering of *scissis*, but the collision of schools.

The main jobs to traditional Christian beliefs are coming from within the fold: So it was at the time of the Reformation; and so it was when historical criticism of biblical texts, which also spread from Germany, helped to unsettle nineteenth-century belief. Now nothing is excused radical examination: liturgical, pastoral, scriptural, canonical, credal. The examiners claim a freedom of inquiry equal to that which is taken for granted in the secular reaches of their society. At the bottom of it all are the theologians.

The general standing of theology has been improving. As Queen of the Sciences she was long ago deposed and has been living in provincial surroundings. She is not poised to regain her throne that would require a counter-revolution of alarming magnitude. But things are looking up. People pay court to her again. There is even a whiff of well-bred scandal about her doings to command popular attention.

The German genius for theological innovation has flourished through this century as it did the last. Its effects have recently been more widely diffused. The periti of the Second Vatican Council played a crucial, conservative part in putting the Curia temporarily to flight. In English universities theology has once more become an object of intellectual curiosity and is quite widely read in conjunction with other subjects by undergraduates who have no intention of taking holy orders. When *The Times* published a letter the other day signed by 82 home-bred academic theologians surprise was expressed that the point of a needle, or for that matter the UGC, provided standing room for so many.

At the other end of the world the "theology of liberation" (which is built around the proposition that liberation from political and economic oppression is a necessary temporal manifestation of the spiritual salvation Christianity promises) is a force in Latin America, where it was chiefly developed, and in Africa. Pope John Paul II at Pueblo in Mexico almost a year ago seemed neither to endorse nor condemn it, but rather to reflect its thrust in line with his own passionate commitment to human rights and dignity.

Duty to define

So much intellectual activity, excitement even, where caution and torpor have often made their abode, must be welcome. But when the kernel of the subject matter is divinely revealed truth, the welcome can hardly be without reserve among those charged with the guardianship of revelation. That is a responsibility invested in the church, even on a low estimate of the church's role on earth. On a high estimate such as is entertained at Rome, the responsibility becomes a duty to define, promulgate, censure and if necessary deprive. Dogmatic truth is precious, intrinsically

and for salvation. Error in that matter is too important to be indulged.

How the separately organized Christian churches respond to the stimulus of their radical theologians will depend on the habits and character of each church. And their responses are likely to (already do) highlight their differences of habit and character. That in turn may affect inter-church relations.

The flurry of activity in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at Rome, where Küng and Schillebeeckx are only the two most prominent of the names to have attracted investigation or censure, is watched with apprehension or at least mixed feelings from within the Anglican and other reformed churches. Not that Anglicans and others are wanting who share the view that Christian theologians are duty bound to work within the limits implied by the major Catholic definitions of Christian doctrine. Just as there are Anglicans who are not particularly disturbed, as some in all churches find themselves to be, by the fact that the new Pope makes two very different sorts of impression: the impression made by his public personality and the impression made by his public utterances.

Dr Robert Runcie, about to be Archbishop of Canterbury, has characterized the first of these impressions. The Pope, he says, seems to put his arms round the world. "He somehow meets the inarticulate searching of so many people for something deeper in life than the kind of shallow materialism that often surrounds us." In his utterances and his action upon them, whether concerning worship or doctrine or morals or clerical discipline, the Pope emerges as a strict constructionist of the rules as they have come to be laid down—and many Roman Catholics breathe a sigh of relief that they have such a Pope again.

The two impressions, while causing some surprise, in conjunction, are not contradictory: though the first warms hosts of people who are out of sympathy with the second. But whatever may be thought in the Anglican Church about the propriety of theologians on the complexities of the Pope's person, one thing is sure. The reappearance of even a whiff of the Inquisition tinging in the Curia and the Pope's association with it evokes ancestral memories whose tendency can only be to chill the carefully kindled warmth of of Anglo-Roman relations.

Or perhaps that is not precisely the effect of Pope John Paul's entry upon the scene. Perhaps it is rather to substantiate the view of ecumenism which holds that it is programme enough, for this generation at any rate, to achieve at all levels of the church's dealings with each other a Christian courtesy purged of all residual rancour; and to achieve also full collaboration in the task of doing good in the world. To labour for congruence of doctrine and discipline for the purpose of effecting mergers is another day's work.

landslide, and knew better than anybody else that by a five-year absence he had forfeited his claim to any promotion. Alec Douglas-Home (if I may be indiscreet) promised him a peerage after the 1964 general election, and then could not afford to risk a by-election in Withington, Manchester. Mr Heath, in 1974, had others in mind for his rearguard honours.

As he was the last of the true corridor politicians, so he was the last of the old-fashioned constituency members. He once showed me the minutes of the Withington Conservative Association at the turn of the century. One page recorded the passing of a vote of thanks to the then Member "on the occasion of his annual visit". Robert Cary's style was different. He knew that a politician had to keep a marginal seat warm. If he employed a secretary I never heard of her; he answered all constituency letters by postcard, and at his party conference luncheons for constituency workers I heard how they treasured the direct personal touch. The postcards became keepsakes.

There were others. Robert Cary did not run Government, or post as First Assistant to the Queen's Chapel of St Margaret's Church, he was one of the baker's dozen of Conservative backbenchers who rebelled, and refused to vote for the Government when Anthony Eden resigned over Neville Chamberlain's foreign policy. He was a cavalryman before he was a politician and, like Harold Macmillan, could never forget Flanders tramped. He left Ardwick School at 14, read journalism at the Queen's College, and he was not old enough to shave when he first arrived in the front line. It marked him, as it marked them all; and that may explain why, in the House and in the corridors, he gave the impression of being more than a party man. Former leaders and politicians of all parties attended his memorial service.

I am old enough, or old fashioned enough, to regard the life and works of Robert Cary as wholly admirable, and that is not glibly said. Robert Cary, along with a few others like Michael Foot and Enoch Powell, saw through the pretension, and pointed to the authentic role and powers of backbenchers. A politician who does not really know the sports page, but to the ordinary columns of *The Times*, it is rather that I believe Robert Cary did more for retired members and the of members.

id Wood

st of the line corridor liticians

rice of thanksgiving "for the work of Robert Archibald first Baronet", in St Martin's Church, Westminster, a week ago, weighed upon me for as well as private reasons. I hope I may help in some of the work that will his grave. He was the last of himself "the long-servicemen" who do not cover the highest places and yet in the House of Commons is to be found and honoured. The of endless fascination is it making history or being trivial.

The corridor politician is more but, or rather yes. When he in the Chamber (his seat would be empty on any big occasion, prayers to "Who goes?") he went out into the corridor, the smoking and the dining room, perhaps a political club, in sound of the sides of the House and he predicted the future for every committee of the House, unmeasured time as a of the Commons' pension for retired members and the of members.

suffered disappointments and without any trace of bitterness. He lost his seat in the 1945

entry picked at random who want to be supported by secretaries and research assistants and to spend the better part of every day in departmental committees or in their offices at the Norman Shaw building along the Embankment.

In sense, we have today a House of Commons out of touch with quiescent politics that says I remember because parliamentary life has moved out of the Chamber and out of the corridors. If a Member of Parliament cannot be a minister, then he must be the chairman of a House committee or an officer of a backbench committee. Come what may, he must have executive rank of some sort, until nowadays you could make a part of a Commons order paper, throw in, and be sure it will hit a backbencher who is not so much a backbencher MP as a member of the government or the anti-government, more bent on career than service.

Visit the House of Commons, or even the House of Lords today, and you find the corridor filled with quiescent politics that says I remember because parliamentary life has moved out of the Chamber and out of the corridors. If a Member of Parliament cannot be a minister, then he must be the chairman of a House committee or an officer of a backbench committee. Come what may, he must have executive rank of some sort, until nowadays you could make a part of a Commons order paper, throw in, and be sure it will hit a backbencher who is not so much a backbencher MP as a member of the government or the anti-government, more bent on career than service.

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Jurors as the sole judges of fact

From Mr Bernard Lever

Sir, I welcome the point of your leader, "Taking the role off the index" (December 20), to show how absurd and unjust is the suggestion of breaking the link between revisions in the level of unemployment benefit and the rise in prices. The reasons you put in support of this idea were that it would save public money and reduce the numbers of low-paid workers in the poverty trap.

How the separately organized Christian churches respond to the stimulus of their radical theologians will depend on the habits and character of each church. And their responses are likely to spread from Germany, helped to unsettle nineteenth-century belief. Now nothing is excused radical examination: liturgical, pastoral, scriptural, canonical, credal. The examiners claim a freedom of inquiry equal to that which is taken for granted in the secular reaches of their society. At the bottom of it all are the theologians.

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Sleighs for hire, and hot spiced wine

Having discovered langlauf (cross-country skiing) last year, it seemed an essential part of this year's winter holiday that I choose a resort which catered for this sport. I telephoned Swan's and asked their advice. I was told the Seefeld in Austria was the place to go.

We stayed at the excellent Grand Hotel Hohes Munde, named after the beautiful conical mountain that dominates the village. In the hotel basement was a night club, deservedly reputed to be the best in town.

We spent the first day exploring the village, whose centre is a pedestrian zone, and getting our bearings. We found the Rosshütte mountain railway and decided to take the little train to the top. It was quite an experience as the train made its almost vertical way up the mountain, but the views from the restaurant at the top were breathtaking.

In the afternoon we went to the swimming pool at the Olympia Centre, which is divided into three "basins", the first containing natural rock islands, with a fast-flowing channel between them that pummels away all your aches and pains. The second, reached by swimming beneath an arched bridge, is considerably warmer, and beyond that, through a Perspex flap, is the third basin. This, unbelievably, is outdoors.

The water is hot and steams in the cold outside air. Some hardy people were actually getting out of the water and falling in the snow before plunging back into the warmth of the pool.

The second day I had my langlauf tuition. We had a good instructor who asked—and remembered—the names of each of his pupils so that he could call individual instruction when necessary. At the end of the day, creaking in every joint, I headed for the swimming pool and the sauna.

The next day I was so stiff I could barely move, so instead of langlaufing we tried one of the walks around the village. (There are 30 miles of cleared paths for walkers, and 50 miles of langlauf tracks around Seefeld.) The path followed closely on the langlauf track to begin with then branched upwards into the lower slopes of the mountains among the trees, giving delightful glimpses of Christmas-card scenery all along the way.

It was a real winter wonderland with snow falling off trees and parks barely visible through thickly falling flakes.

The days had passed so quickly that I suddenly realized it was our penultimate day and I had only been langlaufing twice. I hired skis, sticks and shoes from the local office and went off with two friends we had made in the hotel.

When we came to the first fairly steep up-gradient, I tried valiantly to herringbone my skis and follow them up, but it seemed I went three steps up and slid four steps back. On the skin course I fell on one of the steeper down-gradients which merely assured me that I really am not cut out for downhill skiing. Once again I removed my skis and walked!

So far I have neglected to say anything about the evening entertainments organized in the resort by Swan's. There is a bowling evening and a tobogganing evening, an evening of Austrian dancing and a torché.

Seefeld, incidentally, has 20 horse-drawn sleighs for hire and on the last night there was an organized sleigh-ride, which turned out to be along the snow-covered woodland track where we had walked the last part of the blindfold. At the end of the ride was a small bar which provided the free jug of glühwein (hot spiced wine) which had been included in the price—and the most enormous dog I have ever seen.

A German sheep dog—rather like the Old English variety but nearly twice the size.

Then it was back to the hotel for a last dance at the hotel night club, and the following morning a last walk around the village before boarding our coach for Munich and the Dan Air flight back to Garwick.

The 1979/80 prices for Seefeld range from £115 for one week at the cheapest hotel in December to £274 for 2 weeks at the most expensive hotel in February. The Grand Hotel Hohes Munde prices are from £129 to £153 for one week and £199 to £229 for two weeks.

Jenny Blake



Left: It's never too late to learn to ski, but the sooner one starts—the easier. Right: Fun at Fasching in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.



On the third day we took one of Swan's excursions to Neuschwanstein, the fairytale castle built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria, which was used in the film of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. It was a lovely drive across the German border, skirting the bottom of the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain.

We stopped for lunch in the village of Neuschwanstein and then followed our guide up to the castle. Not for the unfit, this walk. The road winds directly upwards from the village at a very steep gradient without leveling out at all until it reaches the castle perched on top of the hill.

Our return journey took us via Oberammergau, home of the passion plays performed only once every ten years. That night we explored some more of Seefeld and found the casino where, on production of your passport or any document proving you to be over 21, you can play roulette, black jack or baccarat until the early hours. Or, if you don't wish to gamble, you can sit with a drink or two and watch others lose their money.

The next morning we awoke to a blizzard. It was a real winter wonderland with snow falling off trees and among the trees, giving delightful glimpses of Christmas-card scenery all along the way.

Jenny Blake

When the family goes out to ski

It is now three years since exhilaration I am feeling. Then it was back to the hotel for a last dance at the hotel night club, and the following morning a last walk around the village before boarding our coach for Munich and the Dan Air flight back to Garwick.

Then it was back to the

rush of air comes my first tottering efforts at as I hurdle down and I am still learning to ski. Since then I have known that it's exhilaration developed my skills a little. It was fascinating, the present festival period, and the slopes were full of skiers in

quieter life have much in common. I am still learning to ski. While I stayed close to the many restaurants with

ski slopes, there is a heated outdoor pool even in the depths of winter—it is not uncommon to see facilities. Trips to the together with Der Traval offers seven nights in a hotel from £195 and £142 in a private house. For a 14-day stay, prices start at £177 in a private house and £245 between hotels, which are charmingly decorated in the Bavarian style, or in large rooms in private houses, and more flats and chalets offering self-catering are becoming available all the time.

As an example, Lufthansa offers a winter resort with its own indoor and outdoor swimming pools—there are no fancy dresses performing

skiing and other sports

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How the French changed everything

ing holidays will never be the same after this winter. Any of the other traditional facilities, such as heated swimming pools, or even the boisterous evening entertainment, they dreamt up the way to learn the sport: Attractions in Chamonix: rides short side, or ski schools, through the snow, at which has won Villard-de-Lans and Val-Cenis, also in Dauphine; or down the slopes, within play-holiday in Megève. The fact, if you like, good holiday courses are at the and within four hours' flight west of the Alps. If you are not, then they introduced self-catering holidays, the skiers' paradise. Nelson Ski Holidays bought about a room in the ski market—a move which is one of the many bought about a room in the ski holiday.

Finally, they have done some prices, even the extraordinary steep being cut as an incentive to taking the "ski" out of ski-resorts in January. A goliath, who is not, has been as high as £100 a day, to attract those winter aymakers to whom ski-areas areathens, but who this lack of demand, which is still like to combine is reported by many of the outdoor (or even in leading tour operators) activity with the self-catering delights of "spring skiing" holidays are the less popular than previously, tobogganning and what it does mean that nothing were obvious more, and more, people are on to the winter-making their own holiday scene, as was cross-skiing, perhaps "talc-skiing", which looks like it can access the Chamonix, a lot more, and driving to a self-skiing but not in the same resort, rather than demands a far greater book a "package holiday" of personal fitness. In fact, any such arrangement, as was obvious more, and more, people are also combining skiing with other sports, such as tennis, riding, hockey, and a holiday course in tennis, wood-carving, however, is like wood-carving, hard, the individual tries, it is very unlikely that he can ever match the greatly reduced prices which the big

sorts, you need not miss out bulk buying. It is in travel arrangements that the biggest savings are to be made. So when holidaymakers who are determined to book accommodation privately, will still find it cheaper to fly to their destination than to drive. There are many schemes like the Falcon Leisure Group's excellent "Poundswipe" flights this winter, in which return air fares are a fraction of what you would pay on a major airline's scheduled flights.

An example: London to Zurich, and back, with Falcon, £50, by scheduled British Airways flight, £168.

Falcon, the result of a merger between Crawford-Perry Travel and Chancery Travel, also have their own inclusive holiday programme, and say that they still have room in the French resort of Val d'Isère and Chamonix, as well as in Italy's admirable Courmayeur, early in the season. Since their brochure was printed, Falcon have also reintroduced "ski weekends" at all their resorts—ideal both for beginners who want to try out the sport and enthusiasts who cannot keep away from the "weekends" last from Tuesday until Sunday, and prices are around the £75 mark.

While Falcon are expanding their programme, some other operators faced with an unexpected lull in sales in the face of the enthusiast for go-it-alone

are able to obtain by perhaps wishing that they could turn them back a bit.

That inevitably means that there are bargains around—particularly if you can book now, will settle for a January or February holiday, and are not too choosy about where you go. Falcon, for example, are offering up to £50 off the price of some of their early season skiing holidays in the Spanish Pyrenees, providing that they are booked before the end of this month.

A better bet, however, might be the £15 that they are offering off ski holidays in Italian resorts in January—for besides being more sophisticated, the Italian ski resorts do have the attractions, costs from £441 (Group).

Among the most popular, and best-organized, skiing holidays are those operated by The Ski Club of Great Britain, who run their own highly led events and make only selected associations. The club (308 Eaton Square, London SW1) still have places on their trip for juniors (15-18) to Flaine (Switzerland), in the tiny principality of Liechtenstein, from £139 (Swans); and a week's stay in the pictureque and traffic-free Swiss resort of Wengen, which is served by a narrow-gauge railway, from £110 (Thomson).

While Falcon are expanding

Straight onto your doorstep

fog and continental We travelled across the 100 controllers set to frozen Arctic landscape of air travel as unpleasant possible this winter, to the on the Autrooute to Lyon in the worst winter conditions the country had experienced in 100 years. The cold was intense and two skis seems an attraction. Another somewhat our receptiveness in its favour is that a self-catering holiday Saint Vincent in low cost only £79.95 in high season). By the morning we had costed our way had been Biarritz and our coach was zig-zagging its way up in deep snow along

It has 30 miles of uncrowded, well-maintained pistes, served by an efficient network of lifts.

many German and Austrian resorts having to introduce piste-police to control the crowd of skiers. Puy Saint Vincent has much going for it... It has 30 miles of uncrowded, well-maintained pistes, served by an efficient network of drags, chair-lifts and a funicular. There are nice nursery slopes and a varied choice of excellent long runs for intermediate skiers, without the tedium of queuing at the lifts. There is snow, and we had five fab-

ulous, cloudless, sunny days

during our seven-day sojourn, something I had never experienced before in off-season skiing in Austria, Germany, Romania, Italy and Scotland.

The great advantage of purpose-built ski resorts is that the runs finish at your own doorstep. Station-1600, built in an arc nesting against a mountain that keeps the wind out, is small and intimate with its 450 flats compared to Isola's 3,000. It has, however, almost everything: shops, two bars, a restaurant, and a super-

market. The ski and boot hire at the local sports shop is reasonable and the service friendly. The exchange of money posed some problems but this season the station will have its own bank.

Our home for the week was a sunny, south-facing studio flat, warm and cosy, with a bathroom and endless hot water. It was furnished with pine, the fridge and cooker were functional and the crockery stylish. The price it was outstanding value.

Unlike the French holiday-makers, who are mostly at

the restaurant situated right

under our studio flat, we

used the supermarket's

somewhat limited choice for our cuisine. Others in our group—which included such divers people as a North Sea oil-worker, three doctors and two bus drivers from Crawley—were more adventurous: one couple brought with them an icebox duck, pork casserole and game. When we became a bit tired of a diet of bacon and eggs, sausages and baked beans, and ventured down to the restaurant, we found the prices very reasonable and the service friendly.

After six lessons with

Jean Luc Pineau, an Olympic

Gold medallist ski instructor

and strict task-master, my

wife, who had never skied

before, was off, competently

giving down the pistes.

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Robin Mead

Marlow 74033 (Consultants)

10-730 5148 (Consultants)

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PERSONAL CHOICE



Petula Clark and her tiny companion Topo Gigio in London Night Out (ITV, 8.00)

So much Christmas music, religious and secular, to choose from! Where to begin? With the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College Chapel, Cambridge, without a doubt (Radio 4, 4.05). For anyone who cares about the real meaning of Christmas, every second of this famous broadcasting occasion is pure gold. Also, you must not forget Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols (Radio 3, 11.25 pm) which will grace on you. The concert by the Goldsmiths Choral Union (BBC 2, 4.45) sounds as if it might provide splendid listening, and so does

Midnight Mass from the beautiful abbey at Hereford in Northern England (TV, 11.30 pm). At a more modest level—and I use the word in the statistical sense—we have an unmissable one-man show on BBC 2 at 8.25—Iraida Perlman playing Bach's *D Minor Partita*.

And what of the spoken word this Christmas Eve? Astonishingly, there is hardly any Dickens, though I understand Eoz will get token recognition in Tony Britton's Christmas Song (Radio 2, 7.00). Frank Muir, always good value for our licence money, tells the story of the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith (newly reopened) on Radio 4 at 7.45. The programme is packed to the gallery with famous voices. Nobody whose thoughts are turning to frosty rural walks and lights twinkling from log-heated hillside cottages, should miss The Countryside at Christmas (Radio 4, 10.45 am). Anna Massey begins her readings from Little Woman (Radio 4, 8.45 am) and, aptly, the book opens with the March family's Christmas. This is, of course, the week when the robin comes into its own, and the award-winning film about a year in the life of this cheerful refugee from our Christmas cards, can be seen on BBC 1 at 6.35.

You really must not waste too much of today watching films when there are so many better things to look at and listen to (and to accomplish domestically). But if it must be films, let me at least point you in the direction of three good ones—*Singin' in the Rain*, of course (BBC 2, 10.55 pm), with Mr Kelly's classic slapping and Donald O'Connor's musical acrobatics; *The Go-Between* (BBC 1, 9.00) with its sinister observations on Britain's former class system. And *Ben Hur* (ITV, 1.30), the noblest Roman epic of them all.

There is all the comedy you can take on both radio and TV. I unhesitatingly recommend The ITMA File, with highlights from Tommy Handley's fondly remembered weekly fun treats (Radio 4, 10.15), the charades game *Give Us a Clue* (ITV, 7.00) and the Yuletide edition of *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* (Radio 4, 9.35 pm).

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO; * BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davall

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.40 am Fingerbobs: tiny puppets (r).
9.55 What-a-Mess: Tales of Frank Muir, now told by him and filmed by Oliver Postgate. (r).
10.00 Jackanory: Hannah Gordon reads the story: The Holly Bears a Berry, by Alison Utley (r).
10.15 Captain Caveman: cartoon. The Kookie Case of Cryptic Keyes (r).
10.25 Young Explorers: Christmas in the Sun. How 25 youngsters from Scotland spent the holiday in China (r).
10.55 Magic Roundabout: old favourites returns.
11.00 Zorba: Senior Chime Boy. For children.
11.25 Mickey Mouse Club: two Donald Duck Cartoons. No Hunt—Donald's Day (r).
12.45 Great Events of the Bible: The Deluge. The story of Noah. With old-timer Lew Ayres and Rita Game.
12.45 pm News and weather.
1.00 Film: Treasure Island (1971). Yet another version of the nautical classic for Oscar's Welsh-type Long John Silver. Kim Burfield plays Jim.

BBC 2

11.00 am Play School: as BBC 1, 1.15 Watch: The Christmas story, told with puppets and music.
2.40 Film: Mary Queen of Scots (1971). Mary, Queen of Scots and Glenda Jackson is Elizabeth, a nasty barker (Scrooge-like) who threatens to ruin a woman (Maria Thomas). Enter a guardian angel (Chloris Leachman).
3.15 A Family Circus Christmas: animated story about how snow is made.
12.00 Jamie and the Magic Torch: cartoon.
12.15 pm Once Upon a Time: Puppet story: The Dog and his Reflection. Told by Peter Davison.
12.30 A Christmas Roundabout: Quiz conducted by Mike Reid, 1.00 News. 1.20 Thematics News.
1.30 Film: Ben-Hur (1959). unusually intelligent Roman epic, with religion, lepers, battles and that unusual character, race. Charlton Heston is Ben-Hur. Stephen Boyd is Maccus. Distinguished musical score by Miklos Rozsa.
5.20 News. 5.30 Thematics News...
6.00 You're Only Young Twice: Christmas at Paradise Lodge. Comedy with Peggy Mount.

THAMES

9.30 am Walt Disney Classics: cartoons. 9.50 Film: It Happened One Christmas (1940). Moved aside for now by Oliver Waller as a nasty barker (Scrooge-like) who threatens to ruin a woman (Maria Thomas). Enter a guardian angel (Chloris Leachman).
11.35 A Family Circus Christmas: animated story about how snow is made.
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CHARLOTTE HESTON

Charlotte Heston in the chariot race from Ben-Hur (ITV, 1.30)

2.30 Hound Hunters cartoon.
2.40 Wings over the World: Paul McCartney and Co's 1975-76 tour of Australia and America (r).
3.55 Play School: the story of The Little Telephone: cartoon. The Flying Saucer Sorcerer (r).
4.15 Captain Caveman: cartoon. The Kookie Case of Cryptic Keyes (r).
4.40 A Star for My Son: Play by Margaret Eaves. Starring Jean Heywood.
5.10 Blue Peter: Special feature on the magnificent response to the Cambodian refuge. (r). Also cards round the Christmas tree.
5.30 News with Peter Woods.
5.50 Tom and Jerry: cartoon.
6.00 Gold at Christmas: Rolf Harris School, near Salisbury, visit Longleat and "Deck the Halls" there.
6.35 Round Robin: Bernard Cribbins reveals the private life of the friendly Christmas bird. The film has won many international awards.
6.45 It's a Christmas Knockout: Four Cortina d'Ampezzo in northern Italy. Britain is represented by a team from Lincolnshire.

(1968). George Dunning's extraordinary full-length cartoon about (but only with the singing voices of) the Beatles. Its inventiveness sometimes leaves you breathless.
7.00 News with subtitles for the hard of hearing.

7.05 Follow the Star: Musical narrative by Sally K. Daly (narrated by Jim Barker). A hit on the London stage. With Sue Jones-Davies as Mary and Lewis Flander as Herod.
8.25 Iraida Perlman Plays Bach: D Minor Partita, played at St John's Smith Square, London. In the most lovely and well-known Chaconne.
9.00 Star Over Bethlehem: A satellite transmission links eight countries (including Britain represented by Trinity Chapel, Canterbury) in this programme of seasonal music. Claire Bloom and Tom Fleming speak Christmas. Peter Fry's narration.

9.45 The Great Toy Robbery: cartoon.

10.00 The Sounds of Christmas: Mrs. Muir, wife of the Royal Albert Hall when this programme was recorded there. It features the Goldsmiths Choral Union and flautist James Galway. Richard Baker introduces the show.

10.45 Film: Yellow Submarine

8.00 Yel's Christmas Music Show: The Yel's Mr. Postman. His guests are Twiggy, Roy Castle, Maggie Macdonald and the Cambridge Bakers.
8.35 Christmas on 4.
8.45 Little Women (1): by Louisa M. Alcott.
9.00 News.
9.05 The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1).
9.35 I'm Sorry, I haven't a Clue (1).
10.20 BBC Sound Archives.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 The Countryside at Christmas.
11.30 Many a Cross Word (1).
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.27 Lord Peter Wimsey.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.45 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.07 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.05 Festival of Lessons and Carols (King's, Cambridge).
4.30 A Part-time Island: Linda Farne.
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 Give or Take (1).
7.00 Story: At Your Age, by Scott Fitzgerald.
7.30 New Records: Music, 8.00 Film, 8.30 News, 9.00 Drama, 9.30 TV.
8.00 BBC Sound Archives.
8.45 Saturday Concerto (Double Concerto).
9.00 News.
9.05 Organ: Bachmire, Schubert.
9.30 News.
9.35 Martini: Musicals (1).
9.45 New Records: Music, 8.00 Film, 8.30 News, 9.00 Drama, 9.30 TV.
10.00 BBC Sound Archives.
10.30 Christmas Day.

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11.30 Many a Cross Word (1).
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.27 Lord Peter Wimsey.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.45 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.07 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.05 Festival of Lessons and Carols (King's, Cambridge).
4.30 A Part-time Island: Linda Farne.
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PERSONAL CHOICE

Boxing Day's programmes

Edited by Nicholas Wapshott

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.45 *Over the Moon*.
10.05 *Jackie and Hannah*. Gordon reads *The Christmas Box*.
10.25 *Captain Caveman*: Animated cartoon.
10.30 *Why Don't You*: First of two episodes which implore children to turn the tables on and do something more interesting. There should be a similar programme for adults.
10.45 *Magic Roundabout*: The French cult joins in the fun.
11.00 *Mickey Mouse Club*: Goofy in *No Smoking*.
11.20 *Greatest Heroes of the Bible*: today, *Ezra*.
11.28 pm *Weather*.

12.10 *Grandstand*: Frank Bough introduces; at 12.12 *Bob Wilson's Hull and East*: rugby league from Hull; *Headlines*: a round-up of racing; the 1.14-1.45 and 1.55 from Kempton Park and the 1.25 and 1.55 from Wincanton.

2.35 *Film*: *Champions*. A *Love Story* (1978). A juvenile love affair, against parents' wishes, for adults has Richard Burton and

which succeeds through the couple becoming champion ice-skating partners. Made for American television.

4.15 *Winnie-the-Pooh* and the Honey Tree: *Winnie-the-Pooh*'s drawings animated by the Disney studio, easily gives Pooh that most English bear, an American accent: *25 The Road and the Miles of Miles*: *Boycie* songs and jokes.

5.10 *Dame Diana*: Third dose of *Diana*, now, apparently, by the Hull and East with clips from *The Aristocats*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and a plug for the latest *Beauty and the Beast*. The Black Hole, not the *Star Wars* of science fiction, but a lumbering science fiction star.

5.50 *News* with Richard Baker.

10.35 *Boxing Night at the Mill*: This tired, suited chat show hosted by Bob Langley, might perk up with Lee Dawson on the guest list. Music from Diana and Kenny Ball.

11.25 *Film*: *Play It Again Sam* (1972). You must remember this. Woody Allen is the romantic novelist who writes and style of Humphrey Bogart in *Casablanca*, invoking the ghost of Bogey to seduce Diane Keaton. Unintimable.

Regions

BBC 2

10.20 am *Charbar*: Asian music and dance, down at 10.45.
11.00 *Play School*: The children's activity programme. Closedown at 11.25.

12.10 *Film*: *Henry VIII and His Six Wives* (1973). The film version of the highly successful BBC series, with Keith Michell as the king with the large appetite. Among the group's final album together, after heavy-handed remixing by Phil Spector.

7.10 *Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet*: Les Patineurs set around a Victorian Christmas party to music by Giacomo Maci. The company includes Gordon Macrae, Gloria Grahame and Shirley Jones belting out the familiar songs. And Judd the hired hand who benefits or the rebound, is an early and untypical role for Rod Steiger.

8.35 *News*.

8.45 *Our Day Out*: Described repeat of *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (1971) from the Soviet Union.

9.50 *Film*: *The Dick Cavett Magic Show*. 5.50 *Film*: *Let It Be* (1970). Fascinating, muddled documentary showing The Beatles working towards an abortive concert at the Royal Albert Hall recorded before Abbey Road, the day before the group's final album together, after heavy-handed remixing by Phil Spector.

10.35 *Film*: *Oklahoma!* (1955).

The Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, the first to be combined on *TV*, has Gordon Macrae, Gloria Grahame and Shirley Jones belting out the familiar songs. And Judd the hired hand who benefits or the rebound, is an early and untypical role for Rod Steiger.

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THAMES

9.00 am *The Adventures of Rupert Bear*: the comic strip comes alive.
9.10 *Once Upon a Time*. Peter and the Wolf: an animated cartoon set to music by Carl King.
9.20 *Get It Together*: Christmas Bonanza: pop music.
10.30 *Oh, No! It's Selwyn Fright*: Rough-edged comedy with Bill Maynard.
11.00 *Film*: *Satyricon*: Kirk Douglas directs himself in a swashbuckling adventure. With Mark Lester and Lesley-Anne Down.
12.45 *Cinderella*: the traditional story told in a new version with puppets and animation.
1.30 *Crossroads*: The Melodians sing their greatest hits over Christmas Day. The King and I (1956). For those who can't get to the

Palladium to see Yul Brynner and Virginia McKenna, a welcome revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical. Brynner, who won an Oscar for his performance, is perfectly matched against Deborah Kerr, as the non-plussed English governess, come to look after the King of Siam's son.
10.25 *News*.

11.15 *Charlie's Angels*: Dolled-up American detectives.

11.30 *Film*: *Coronation Street*: Strange old live here. It is Boxing Day and the Neighbours are measuring up to their new house, the home of Elsie Tanner.

12.20 am *Christmas Pie*: Children from Lambeth give their ideas on why God should have chosen humble shepherds as the first ones to hear of Christ's coming.

12.20 pm *News*.

12.30 am *The Dick Emery Show* (ITV, 7.45)

12.30 am *Weather*.

ITV

10.30 am *Play*: *Brat Fair*, by Josephine Tey.
9.30 *Kaleidoscope*.
10.00 *News*.

10.05 *Maria Malibran*: portrait.
11.20 *Burkini Way*: sound archives.

12.00 News.

12.15 am-12.30 *Weather*.

Channel 4

12.30 am *Episodes*.

Grampian

12.30 am *News*.

Granada

12.30 am *Close-down*.

HTV

12.30 am *Weather*.

TV-CYMRU/WALES

12.30 am *News*.

ITV

12.30 pm *Regional news*.

Scots

12.30 pm *News*.

Ulster

12.30 pm *News*.

Westward

12.30 pm *News*.

Yorkshire

12.30 pm *News*.

we Allen: BBC 1, 9.40

sing Day means cold y and anyone who indulged their television sets yesterday is going to withdrawal symptoms. One of the few ames worth turning on the Royal Ballet double BBC 2 7.10). In the BBC tribute to celebrate th birthday, Sir Freddie n sat in his drawing pulling slowly at an resent cigarette, and ned how he was led to forgo dancing in of choreography. Since ie has done pretty much e likes. He listens to and, if it moves him, he aks a ballet for it. If he loved, he doesn't bother. I sit outside on sunn for hours, staring into and when told: "You have been working outting out," replies: "Not My mind was completely His genius is a natural, one, as his ballets and, although he's very hard, is simply on his own effortless action.

this same easy genius Peter Shaffer, in his mades at the Olivier, is to believe was planted in the brain of Mozart, clear and entertaining way that Shaffer on this idea that it is o be very difficult to the memory of Simon as the braying donkey on when listening to aic Flute (Radio 3, from this year's Salzburg Festival, 6.45). Then, too, has a very easy talent. His like *The Real Inspector* (Radio 4, 3.15), a whodunit, are strings t games, as if a rd set had turned to

Stoppard, too, has a very easy talent. His like *The Real Inspector* (Radio 4, 3.15), a whodunit, are strings t games, as if a rd set had turned to

over 30 films to choose

the five days that start Christmas Eve, some caring and choosing necessary. If you go for big on Christmas Eve's the monumental 1959 tur (1.30); and on Day, or 8.30, BBC 1's *String* (Paul Newman, Redford and Scott Jopson) while BBC 2's

(10.45), Bob Fosse's based on Ibsen's *Berlin*, with York, Joel Grey and innelli as Sally Bowles. Meanwhile, has a vintage bond, the 1964 Gold (3.15—after *The Queen*, best of Richard Lester's costume japes. *Grand Budapest Hotel* (6.45). Then, over BBC 2, shows *Cukor's My Fair Lady*, which despite the poor always seemed a much down version of the original. Following that, BBC 1 has Fred Zinnemann, but very successful of Robert Bolt's for *All Seasons*, with performances from coifield, Wendy Hiller, Shaw and, briefly, Yelverton.

su put quality before I would recommend *Lesley's* haunting, exquisite adaptation of arley's *The Go-Between*, and Eve, BBC 1, 9.00; *Aileen's* definitive laying ghost of Humphrey and the film noir in *Again, Sam* (Boxing Day, 1.15); and *Moby Friday*, BBC 2, 4.25, like a lot of John Huston's tends to improve *Friday*, despite Gregory Himes' performance as Ahab, last of BBC 2's *Gene*

Kelly musicals is *Singin' in the Rain* (Christmas Eve, 10.55), one of the best of the series, getting rich comedy from the story of Hollywood's switch to sound movies, when the careers of voiceless beauties faded overnight. Other musical fare is *Oklahoma!* (Boxing Day, BBC 2, 10.35), which has some nice performances—Gordon Macrae, Shirley Jones and Gloria Grahame as *The Girl Who Can't Say No*—but shows musical was not Fred Zinnemann's forte as director; and (made a year later, in 1966), a lush and lively *The King and I* (Boxing Day, ITV, 2.00), with Deborah Kerr and the indescribable Yul Brynner, still doing the role today in London.

BBC 2's *Beatles* series also continues with *The Yellow Submarine* (Christmas Eve, 5.40)—nor really a Beatles film but an imaginative cartoon feature, by George Dun-

ning, with a Beatles sound track. *A Hard Day's Night* (Christmas Day, 3.00), was the first and best and most authentically crazy of Richard Lester's collaborations with the group, and a vital text in the story of *Swinging London*. *Let It Be* (Boxing Day, 5.50) was latter-day Beat mania—a nondescript affair, uninterestingly set around a recording studio, directed in 1970 by Michael Lindsay-Hogg.

Otherwise there is sadly little in the way of comedy this Christmas—just a TV spinoff, *Man About the House* (Boxing Day, 8.45), which has a team surprisingly happily under Joseph L. Mankiewicz's direction.

For adventure there's *Where Eagles Dare* (Boxing Day, BBC 1, 7.10), an early and run-of-the-mill *Alastair MacLean* story with Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood; and *The Blue Max* (Thursday, BBC 2, 3.55), an effective thriller set in Ger-

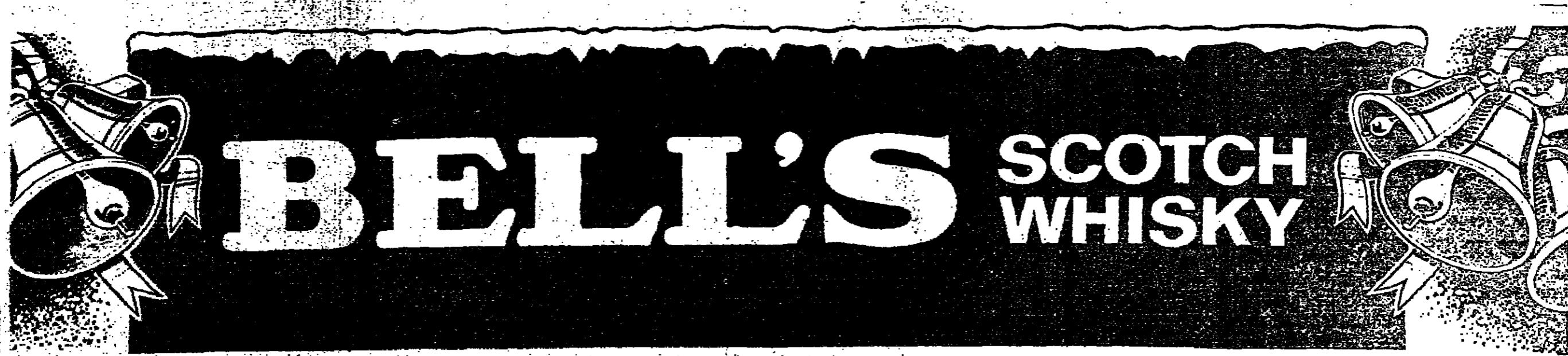
many at the close of the First World war, directed by John Guillermin and starring George Peppard and James Mason. Daunting responsibility characterizes two costume pieces *Waris Hussain's Henry VIII and his Eight Wives* (Boxing Day, BBC 2, 12.10) is at least a cut above Charles Jarrott's *Scots (Christmas Eve, BBC 2, 2.40)*.

Strictly for the kids (and not the more critical of them at that), there is a poor international remake of *Treehouse Island* (Christmas Day, BBC 1, 8.45), which is a slight improvement on *Orson Welles' The Iron Mask* (Friday, ITV, 8.00), with a worse updating of the story of 1840 Mexico, directed by and starring Kirk Douglas. *Scalawag* (Boxing Day, ITV, 11.00). The boy in this film is Mark Lester, who also appears in an amiable remake of *Black Beauty* (Christmas Day, BBC 1,

11.45), with music by Lionel Bart.

The children may well be happier, however, with a minor Disney live-action feature of 1967, *The Gnome-Mobile* (Christmas Day, BBC 1, 4.20) or a Hungarian cartoon feature, *Hugo the Hippo* (Thursday, BBC 1, 2.35), whose main drawback is the voices of Maria and Jimmy Osmond on the sound track.

No strong recommendation for *The Tamarind Seed* (Christmas Eve, ITV, 9.00), an overcooked and tedious romance with Julie Andrews and Omar Sharif; or for *The Man in the Iron Mask* (Friday, ITV, 8.00), with Richard Chamberlain in the lead dual role, but very evidently made-for-TV. No recommendations at all for the counterfeit *Stagecoach* (Friday, BBC 1, 2.05), a needless 1966 remake of the John Ford clas-



REGIONAL TV

Gemma Craven: *The Dick Emery Show* (ITV, 7.45)

RADIO

Radio 4

6.25 am *Shipping Forecast*.
6.30 Light Music.
7.00 Today.
7.00 8.00, News.
7.30 8.30, Headlines.
8.00 Reading: *The Seventh Parallel* by Sir S.

11.00 Weather.

10.00 News.

9.00 Breakfast.

10.00 News.

10.35 Spring quartet: Haydn.

11.00 Organ: Bach: *Pochette*.

11.30 Organ: Bach: *Pochette*.

12.00 News.

12.00 pm Baker's Dozen.

12.30 pm Weather.

1.00 The Archers.

1.00 I'm Sorry, I Haven't a Clue.

1.45 *Flanders/Horowitz*: *Captain Noah* and his *Floating Zoo*.

2.10 Music Weekly.

3.00 Children Play and Sing.

3.30 Piano (Zimmerman): Brahms (Son 3).

4.20 Interval reading.

4.30 *Zimmerman*: Chopin (Son 3).

5.00 The Globe Restored: report on

plans for a theatre in Michigan.

6.00 Julian Bream Consort.

7.00 News.</p

